

pure unadulterated evil, wronging someone because they are different. People should not and cannot live in fear because of their race, color, religion or sexual orientation; it is time that we take the strongest course of action to prevent these crimes.

Over the past decade the number of hate crimes has risen rapidly, consummating with 1999's "summer of hate." If taking anything positive from this infamous period is possible it is, that we have not done enough to prevent such crimes. Committing a hate crime is the most serious of offenses. It is our duty to make the punishment severe enough to deter even the most prejudicial person from considering a crime of this size. We in Congress have the ability and the opportunity to prevent the possible consequences of bias from occurring.

Today, as we commemorate the second anniversary of James Byrd's tragic death, we must pledge upon ourselves to do everything in our power to reduce the number of hate crimes. No one should ever fall victim to a hate crime, or any other crime for that matter, and we must renew and maintain our focus of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (H.R. 1082), to ensure that crimes cease.

IN HONOR OF UPSTANDING CITIZENS PHIL VARGAS, JOE VARGAS, KEN VARGAS, LUCY VARGAS PROUSE, JOSE VARGAS, LETICIA VARGAS ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a family of upstanding citizens. These men and women are being recognized for giving their lives in service to their country and their communities. Each one of them has demonstrated excellence in their fields and they continue to accumulate awards of merit and outstanding performance. These remarkable members of the Vargas family make their homes in Orange County, California.

Officer Phil Vargas, 31, was born and graduated from high school in Anaheim, California. He joined the U.S. Marines and participated in Desert Storm. As a result of his actions, he received many awards and recognitions, including the Good Conduct Medal and the Kuwait Liberation Medal. Later, he joined the Anaheim Police Department where he has received various commendations in his role as a police officer including "Rookie of the Year."

Ken Vargas, 39, has lived in Orange County most of his life. He initially joined the Orange County Probation Department as a juvenile counselor. Today he is the manager of the Santa Ana Detention Facility, which has been recognized nationally for its efficient, humane, economical and practical methods of incarceration. In addition to his exemplary administrative skills, Mr. Vargas has served as an instructor at the Correctional Basic Academy and speaks at seminars all over the nation.

Sgt. Joe Vargas, 43, has served as a police officer for many years in Orange County. His career began at age 14 when he joined the Stanton Police Department Explorer Program.

Today he is a Sergeant with the Anaheim Police Department and its Public Information Officer. Among his numerous merits are Police Officer of the Year and founder of several police organizations. He teaches a karate class to children every Friday.

Sgt. Lucy Vargas Prouse, 53, came to the United States as a child and has since become a proud U.S. citizen. She first joined the Riverside Sheriff's Department as a Correctional Deputy. She later was promoted to Correctional Sergeant and currently is a Supervisor at the Banning Correctional Facility. Her accolades include the Gold Star Award and recognition from the California Board of Corrections.

Officer Jose Vargas, 64, was born in Mexico and came to the United States as a teenager. As a young man he worked as a garbage truck driver while studying English at night. At age 30 he received his high school diploma. Three years later he became an American citizen and a police officer. He is now the Hispanic Affairs Officer for the Santa Ana Police Department. His hard work and dedication have earned him hundreds of commendations, including being selected as "One of the 10 Best Cops in the USA" by Parade Magazine.

Leticia Vargas, also born in Mexico, is a dynamic community activist who advocates for women, minorities and low-income residents. Her broad range of service includes seats on the Sheriff's Advisory Council and the District Attorney Hispanic Commission. In addition, she teaches young women about the rights and responsibilities of citizens and has worked with the Mexican American Arts Council developing programs to extend access of the arts to low income residents. She has served on several boards of directors such as the Legal Aid Society of Orange County, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Homeless Issues Task Force.

Each of these members of the Vargas family has answered the call of civic duty in a manner that is inspirational and worthy of recognition. They have achieved extraordinary feats even though many of them came from humble and modest beginnings. The Vargas family serves as a role model of dedication to community and country. I ask you to join with me today in commemorating this deserving family for the service which they have unselfishly given and continue to give.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ARMED SERVICES YMCA NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR DR. VIRGINIA M. MAHAN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, recently Dr. Virginia M. Mahan of Waynesville, Missouri, was named Armed Services YMCA National Volunteer of the Year during the Thirteenth Annual Recognition Luncheon held on Thursday, May 11, 2000.

Dr. Mahan has been a volunteer for the Fort Leonard Wood Armed Services YMCA, where she is on the Board of Management and is a past Chairperson, since 1984. Among her many contributions, Dr. Mahan created a spin-off of Uncle Sam in the character of "Aunt

Samantha." She is recognized in the Fort Leonard Wood area by her patriotic red, white and blue outfit. She appears frequently at community events, grand openings, birthday parties, and other events to raise money for the Armed Services YMCA.

Prior to her present involvement with the military, Dr. Mahan served as an officer in the United States Air Force. She also was the Deputy Public Affairs Officer and Community Relations Officer at Fort Leonard Wood for thirteen years. Additionally, she has been a teacher, civil servant and special education consultant. Dr. Mahan earned her doctorate in education from the University of Cincinnati in 1980. Currently, she is co-owner of a retail antique store and serves as an adjunct instructor at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Mahan is dedicated to the Pulaski County Armed Services YMCA and generously volunteers her time to ensure that members of our nation's Armed Forces—especially young enlisted members—enjoy a better quality of life. I know that all the Members of the House will join me in showing our appreciation for her commitment to our troops.

CONGRESSWOMAN LOIS CAPPS
HONORED AS DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNUS AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to my very distinguished colleague, the Honorable LOIS CAPPS, on her recognition as the Distinguished Alumni Award recipient this year at the University of California, Santa Barbara. LOIS CAPPS represents a large Congressional district that includes Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Lois received a Master's Degree from UCSB in 1990, at a time when the prospects ever serving in Congress would have seemed very remote. A loving wife of a University Professor, our beloved former colleague Walter Capps, and mother of three wonderful children, LOIS earned her Master's degree from the School of Education in early childhood behavior. This degree improved her skills and leadership as a nurse in the Santa Barbara School District, as an instructor in early childhood development at the Santa Barbara Community College, and as the Director of Santa Barbara County's Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Project and the Parent and Child Enrichment Center.

The past ten years since she received her Master's Degree at UCSB have seen many changes in her life. LOIS has earned the respect of her constituents and her colleagues here in Congress with her hard work, dedication to the family and childhood issues that are so important to her, and strength in times of unfathomable tragedy.

As a member of the House, LOIS has served as a member of the Science and International Relations Committees before assuming her current position on the Commerce Committee, where she serves on the Health and the Environment and Finance and Hazardous Material Subcommittees. LOIS has made her mark in